

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions and lists of claims:

Claims 1-19 Cancelled.

Claim 20 (New): A therapeutic composition for administration via the pulmonary airways comprising dry, discrete microparticles which comprise a water-soluble carrier and a therapeutically effective amount of therapeutic agent, wherein said microparticles have a mean size of between 1 and 10 microns.

Claim 21 (New): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the water-soluble carrier is selected from simple and complex carbohydrates.

Claim 22 (New): The composition according to Claim 21, wherein the water-soluble carrier is mannitol.

Claim 23 (New): The composition according to Claim 21, wherein the water-soluble carrier material is a polysaccharide.

Claim 24 (New): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the microparticles comprise at least 50% by weight water-soluble carrier.

Claim 25 (New): The composition according to Claim 20, wherein the therapeutic agent is a protein, peptide or enzyme.

Claim 26 (New): The composition according to Claim 25, wherein the protein is selected from insulin, parathyroid hormone, alpha-1 antitrypsin and calcitonin.

Claim 27 (New): The composition according to Claim 26, wherein the protein is insulin.

Claim 28 (New): A dry powder inhaler comprising a composition according to Claim 20.